

I also announce that the Senator from Vermont [Mr. LEAHY] is absent due to death in the family.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ABRAHAM). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 111 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Abraham	Gorton	McConnell
Ashcroft	Gramm	Murkowski
Bennett	Grams	Nickles
Bond	Grassley	Pressler
Brown	Gregg	Roth
Burns	Hatch	Santorum
Chafee	Hatfield	Shelby
Coats	Helms	Simpson
Cochran	Hutchison	Smith
Cohen	Inhofe	Snowe
Coverdell	Jeffords	Specter
Craig	Kassebaum	Stevens
D'Amato	Kempthorne	Thomas
DeWine	Kyl	Thompson
Dole	Lott	Thurmond
Domenici	Lugar	Warner
Faircloth	Mack	
Frist	McCain	

NAYS—44

Akaka	Feingold	Lieberman
Baucus	Feinstein	Mikulski
Biden	Ford	Moseley-Braun
Bingaman	Graham	Moynihan
Boxer	Harkin	Murray
Breaux	Heflin	Nunn
Bryan	Hollings	Pell
Bumpers	Inouye	Pryor
Byrd	Johnston	Reid
Campbell	Kennedy	Robb
Conrad	Kerrey	Sarbanes
Daschle	Kerry	Simon
Dodd	Kohl	Wellstone
Dorgan	Lautenberg	Wyden
Exon	Levin	

NOT VOTING—4

Bradley	Leahy
Glenn	Rockefeller

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 52, the nays are 44.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEGAN'S LAW

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 393, H.R. 2137.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2137) to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to require the release of relevant information to protect the public from sexually violent offenders.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, Tuesday night the House passed an important

measure that will help protect our Nation's children from sexual predators.

By a vote of 418 to 0, the House passed legislation, known as Megan's law, that strengthens existing law to require all 50 States to notify communities of the presence of convicted sex offenders who might pose a danger to children.

In 1994, the crime bill allowed but did not require States to take such steps. And since that time, 49 States have enacted sex offender registration laws, and 30 States have adopted community notification provisions.

But not all States have taken the necessary steps to require such notification, and this is a tragedy in the making.

For once, let us prevent a tragedy instead of waiting for some other horrific crime and then taking action. We should pass this law now.

How can we hesitate one moment?

Every parent in America knows the fear, the doubts, he or she suffers worrying about the safety of his or her children. Parents understand that their children cannot know how truly evil some people are. They know that no matter how hard they try, they cannot be with their children every second of the day.

And a second is all it takes for tragedy to strike.

We have an obligation to ensure that those who have committed such crimes will not be able to do so again. This is a limited measure, but an absolutely necessary one.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, we will act tonight on Megan's law, which strengthens and improves a good law, and provides families with needed protection against the most heinous of crimes. Although Megan's law will not affect my State of Washington, which should, and does serve as a model for other States around the country, it will assist those States that, for whatever reason, have been slower to act or more timorous in their fight against crime.

In 1994, Congress passed the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act. The act contained a number of good provisions, perhaps the one I cared about most was the provision calling for the registration of sexual offenders and community notification. Most States have already implemented systems to require people who abduct children, or who commit sexual crimes, to register their addresses with State or local law enforcement officials. The provision in the 1994 act, however, was not as tough as I would have liked. The Act permitted State and local law enforcement to notify communities that there was a sexual predator in their midst, but it did not require this notification. We are back now to improve upon that law by requiring community notification. Even with this mandate, however, State and local law enforcement officials, still will retain the substantial discretion to determine when community notification is called for,

what information to release, and how to best inform the community.

Parents have a right to know that their children are in danger, that the person living next door to them, or down the street is a convicted sexual predator. The need for this notification was tragically illustrated in the case of Megan Kanka, for whom the law before us today is named. Two years ago, Megan was allegedly raped and murdered by a man who lived across the street from her, a man who twice before had been convicted of being a sexual predator, and who lived with two house mates who were themselves sexual predators. Megan's parents did not know this. If they had, they could have advised their daughter not to accept her neighbor's invitation to come into his house to see a puppy.

Mr. DOLE. I ask unanimous consent the bill be deemed read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements in the bill be printed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2137) was deemed read three times and passed.

Mr. DOLE. I think, just for the information of my colleagues, this bill just passed is commonly referred to as Megan's law.

WHITE HOUSE TRAVEL OFFICE LEGISLATION

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 3960 WITHDRAWN

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I withdraw my amendment No. 3960.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3960) was withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 3961 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3955

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I now send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kansas [Mr. DOLE], for himself and Mr. ROTH, proposes an amendment numbered 3961 to amendment No. 3955 to the instructions of the motion to refer H.R. 2937.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DOLE. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.